

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 are pending in the application. Applicant amends claim 4 for minor corrections.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner enter the amendments and consider the remarks in the December 12, 2007 Response to the outstanding rejections made in the September 12, 2007 final Office Action. In the December 28, 2007 Advisory Action, the Examiner objected to claim 4 under 37 CFR 1.75(c) for being an improper dependent claim. Applicant amends claim 4 to correct antecedent basis issues, and submits that claim 4 properly further limits the subject matter of claim 1 by reciting "the lookup table [having] the search keys ... further grouped for each of the up-directional connection path and the down-directional connection path ." Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the objection.

In view of the remarks set forth in the December 12, 2007 Response and above, this application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,

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